

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS
brian BUCCELLATO • pasquale QUALANO • john STARR • josh REED

#3

COVER A



BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

ALL NEW
**EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**
LIZ



aspencomics.com



10
FOR
10

ALL NEW
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

KRIS

brian BUCCELLATO • pasquale QUALANO
john STARR • josh REED

#3

COVER B

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT





Direct Edition
by Pasquale Qualano
John Starr



Special Reasured Edition
by Eric Basaldua
Peter Steigerwald



Retailer Incentive Sketch Edition
by Eric Basaldua



Amazing Arizona Comic Con Exclusive
Limited Edition of 200
by Michael Turner
Peter Steigerwald

HONOR BOUND

PART 3 OF 5

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

story

PASQUALE QUALANO

pencils

MARK ROSLAN
& JOHN ERCEK

digital inks

JOHN STARR

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

The story so far...

Following a tense ambush-turned-standoff between Maly Ang and Han Li Shao, Iris discovered a tragic past occurred between the two, including a daughter she hid from him within an EA Academy. Iris was able to track down and retrieve the young EA before Shao's men could capture her, but now he has contracted the services of Iris' latest rival...the confident--and deadly--Snapdragon to get the job done at all costs...

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN:

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED
Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 4 Issue 3

FEBRUARY 2014. DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc., Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite 111, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Executive Assistant: Iris™ and its logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are ©2014 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
www.aspencomics.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://www.facebook.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
[TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://twitter.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1888-COMIC-BOOK INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@CFLOYSTUDIO.COM]

THE SHAO-ANG
GREEN TOWER.
WUHAN, CHINA.

WHERE IS
MY DAUGHTER,
MALY?!



I DON'T
KNOW, SHAO.
I DID NOT RAID
THE WUHAN
SCHOOL.

NO, YOU SENT
YOUR EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT TO KIDNAP
HER, WHEN DUTY DEMANDS
THAT YOU RETURN THIS
GIRL TO ME AT
ONCE!



I DON'T NEED
YOU TO TELL ME
MY RESPONSIBILITIES.
I AM WELL AWARE OF MY
DEBTS TO YOU. HOWEVER,
IRIS IS NOT UNDER
MY EMPLOY.



BZZZZZZZZZZT
BZZZZZZZZZZT

WHATEVER
SHE HAS DONE, SHE
HAS DONE OF HER
OWN ACCORD.



I AM NO
FOOL, MALY. THERE'S
NO LIE YOU CAN TELL...
NO SUBTERFUGE THAT I
WILL NOT SEE THROUGH.
I'VE KNOWN YOU
TOO LONG.

THEN YOU
KNOW THAT
I WOULD NEVER
OPENLY DEFY
YOUR WISHES.



NO. INSTEAD,
YOU'VE MADE IRIS
AN UNWITTING PAWN
IN YOUR GAMES.



"YOU HAVE SENTENCED HER TO DEATH."

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE IRIS. EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT YOU AT SCHOOL. YOU'RE AN AMAZING FIGHTER AND SO SO SO PRETTY. YOU'RE A LEGEND!

I AM NO LEGEND.

WHATEVER'S GOING ON HERE, IT MUST BE SERIOUS IF YOU'RE INVOLVED.

SOOOOOO... WHAT'S GOING ON?

THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN TELL YOU, CHERRY, EXCEPT THAT YOU ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING. SOMETHING DANGEROUS THAT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AND THAT YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER.

SOMETHING INVOLVING MY PARENTS?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

NOTHING. BUT YOUR REACTION TELLS ME THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THEM.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

YES, YOU DID! NOT IN SO MANY WORDS, BUT YOU DID.

LISTEN, THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN MY HOME SINCE I WAS BORN. I HAVE NO MEMORY OF MY PARENTS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE?

I DO.

THEN WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?

ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT WANT TO HURT YOU... AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN.



WE
SHOULDN'T
STAY IN THE OPEN.
I'M TAKING YOU
SOMEPLACE
SAFE--

I'M NOT
GOING ANYWHERE
UNTIL YOU TELL ME
WHAT'S GOING
ON.

PLEASE,
LITTLE ONE...
DON'T MAKE ME
DO THIS THE
HARD WAY.



DON'T
CALL ME
LITTLE!



THE
HARD WAY,
THEN.



HAIIIIIIII!!!

YOUR
TECHNIQUE IS
GOOD.

BUT
YOUR EMOTIONS
MAKE YOU HASTY,
LITTLE ONE.

SPLOOSH

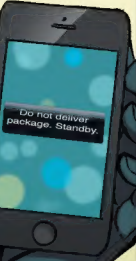
DID
YOU REALLY
EXPECT TO DEFEAT
A LEGEND WITH
THAT?

GET
OUT OF
THE WATER.
IT'S TIME
TO GO.

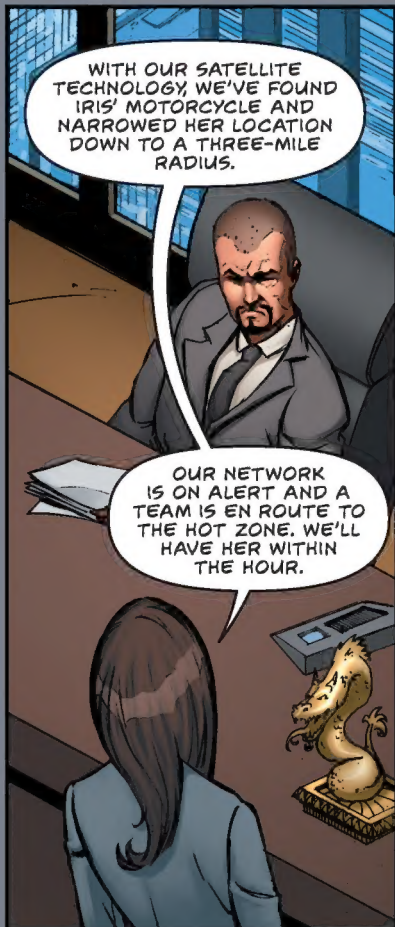
PLAY TIME
IS OVER,
CHERRY.
WE NEED
TO--?!

SHIT.
WHERE'D
SHE GO?

SPLUNK



BZZZZZZZZZZT



WITH OUR SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY, WE'VE FOUND IRIS' MOTORCYCLE AND NARROWED HER LOCATION DOWN TO A THREE-MILE RADIUS.

OUR NETWORK IS ON ALERT AND A TEAM IS EN ROUTE TO THE HOT ZONE. WE'LL HAVE HER WITHIN THE HOUR.

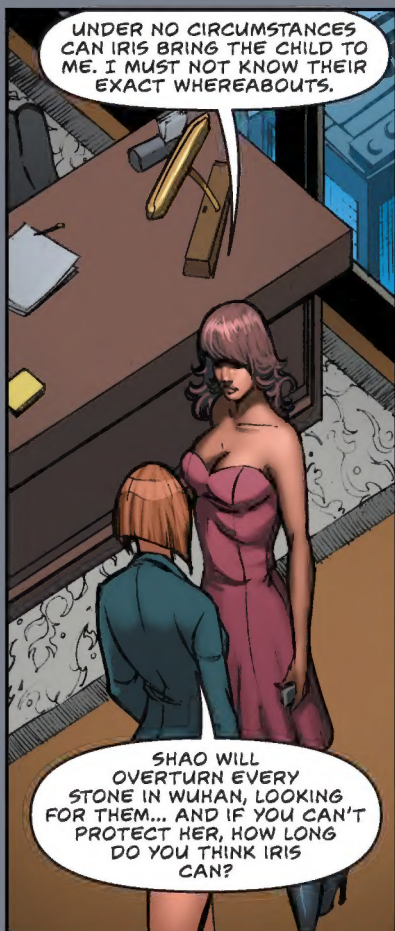


I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO ME THAT WE FIND THIS GIRL. AND THAT IT IS DONE *QUIETLY* EXPLAINING AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD TO MY WIFE IS AN INCONVENIENCE I DO NOT WANT.



UNDERSTOOD. WE WILL DO IT QUIETLY.

GOOD.



UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN IRIS BRING THE CHILD TO ME. I MUST NOT KNOW THEIR EXACT WHEREABOUTS.

SHAO WILL OVERTURN EVERY STONE IN WUHAN, LOOKING FOR THEM... AND IF YOU CAN'T PROTECT HER, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IRIS CAN?



LONG ENOUGH. WE MUST GET HER OUT OF WUHAN.

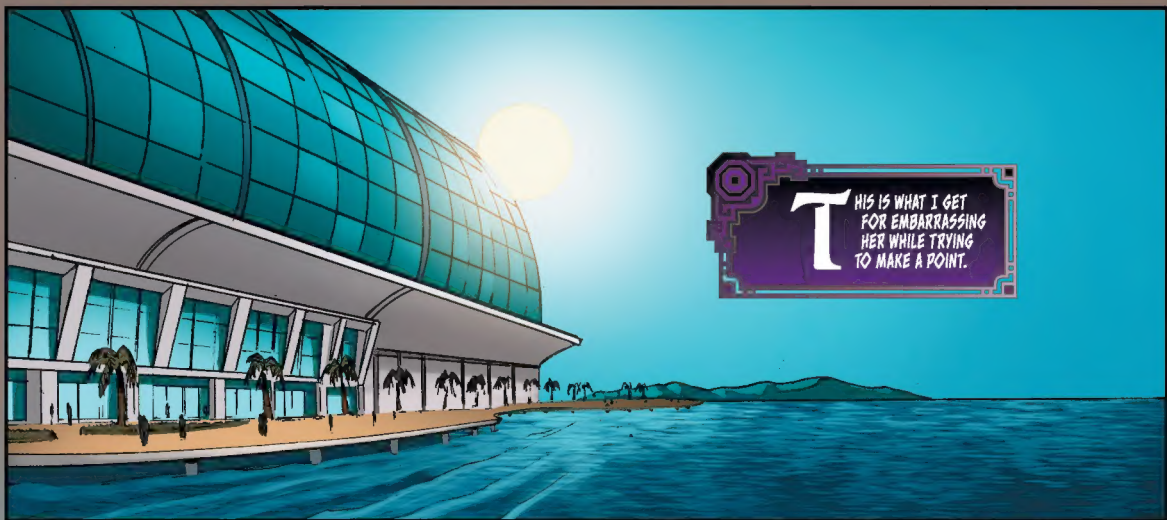
CONTACT **SAMNANG** AND TELL HIM I NEED A PACKAGE DELIVERED. I WON'T SPEAK WITH THEM DIRECTLY AND HE IS NOT TO KNOW THE TRUE VALUE OF THE CARGO. THEY CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH IRIS FROM THIS PHONE ONLY.

AND AFTER DELIVERY, HAVE THEM MAKE CONFIRMATION THROUGH THE NORMAL CHANNELS.



I KNOW THE **CAMBODIAN TRIAD** OPERATES OUTSIDE OF SHAO'S NETWORK... BUT CAN YOU TRUST THEM?

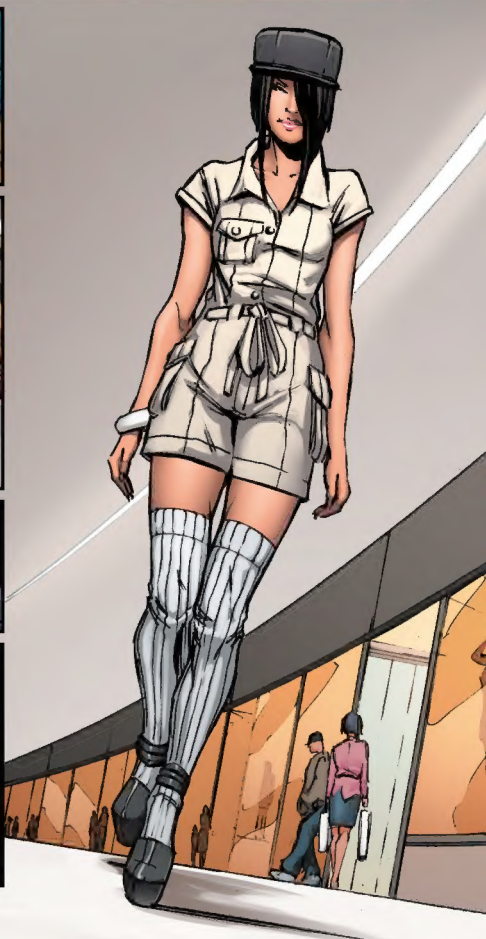
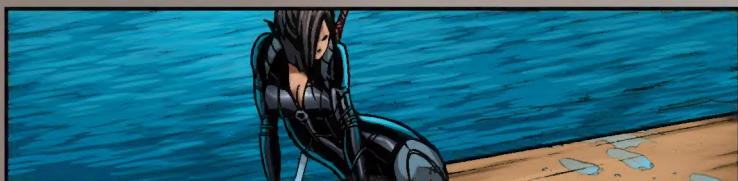
I TRUST THAT SAMNANG WILL ACCEPT MY GENEROUS COMPENSATION.

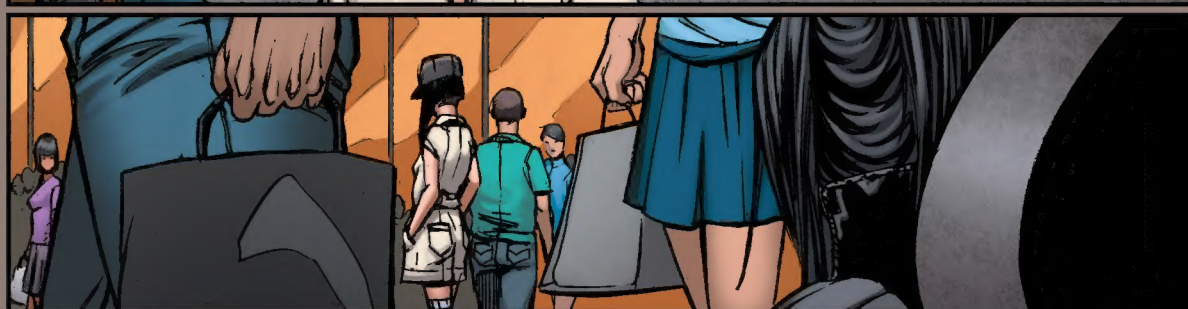


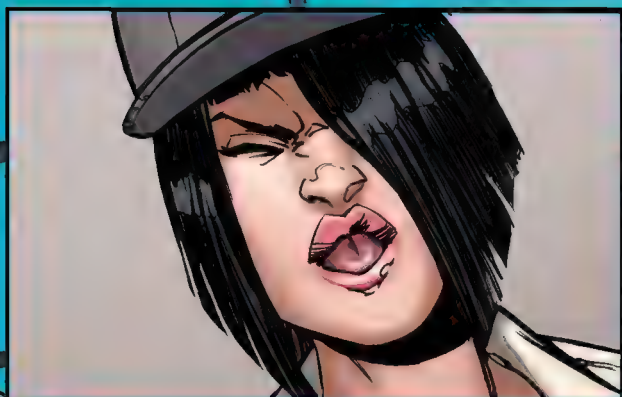
THIS IS WHAT I GET
FOR EMBARRASSING
HER WHILE TRYING
TO MAKE A POINT.



A POOR WAY TO
EARN TRUST.







SNAPDRAGON!
AND
YOU BROUGHT
FRIENDS THIS
TIME.

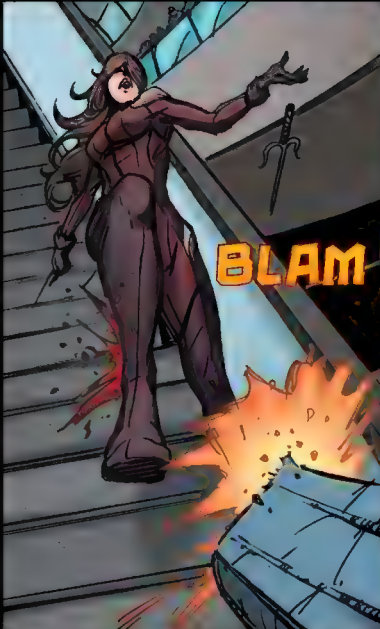
SMALL
WORLD,
IRIS.

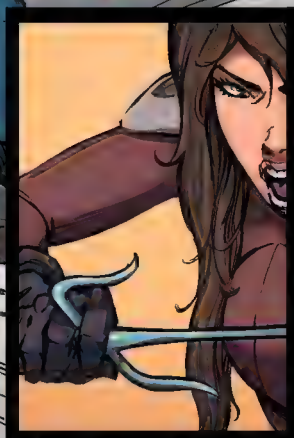
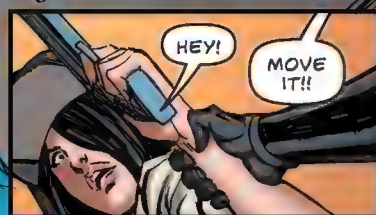


I TOLD
YOU NOT TO
CALL ME THAT.
I'M GOING TO
ENJOY MAKING
YOU PAY.

I GOT
THE LATEX
B**CH. YOU
FOUR-- GET
THE GIRL.













WHUMP





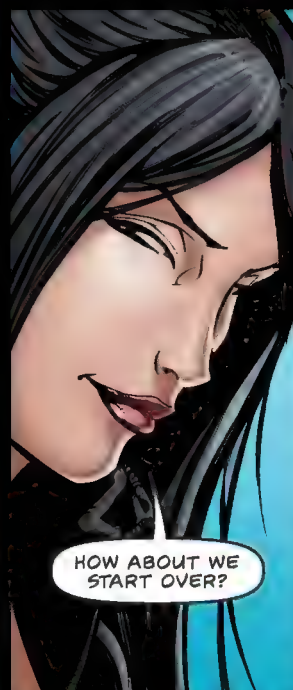
...I KNEW
YOU WERE GOOD, BUT
THAT WAS SO INCREDIBLE!
THE WAY YOU HANDLED
THEM SO EASILY--

EASILY?

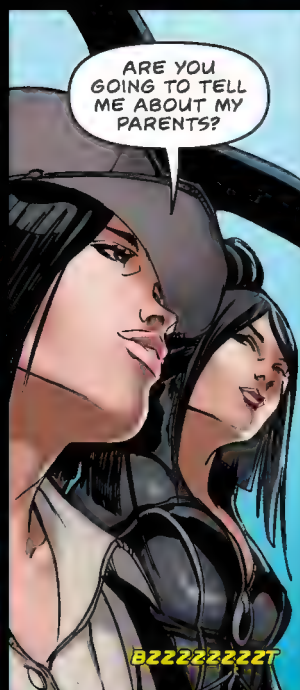
AND HOW YOU
DOUBLED BACK
AND TOOK THEIR
HELICOPTER. ARE
YOU SERIOUS?!



I KNOW THEY
WERE TRYING TO
KILL US AND ALL...
BUT THAT WAS
AH-MAZING.



HOW ABOUT WE
START OVER?



ARE YOU
GOING TO TELL
ME ABOUT MY
PARENTS?

BZZZZZZZZT



NO. I'M
TAKING YOU
SOMEPLACE
SAFE.

115° 41-115° 05' N 29° 58 31' 22'



POUT ALL
YOU WANT, CHERRY...
IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO
TALK ABOUT YOUR PARENTS.
HOPEFULLY, IN TIME THEY WILL
TELL YOU... RIGHT NOW IT'S
BETTER THAT YOU
DON'T KNOW.

WHATEVER.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY
WANTED ME ANYWAY.
OR THEY WOULDN'T
HAVE GIVEN ME TO
THE SCHOOL.

NOT EVERYTHING IS AS EASY
AS THAT, CHERRY. SOMETIMES
CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE--

--YOU CAN
JUSTIFY IT HOWEVER
YOU WANT... THEY GAVE
ME UP. THAT'S ALL
THAT MATTERS.

STAY HERE.

THIS IS
THE HAND OFF,
THEN?

I GUESS
YOUR JOB IS
DONE.

MEANING?

NOTHING.



WE'RE
HERE FOR THE
PACKAGE.

CAMBODIAN
TRIAD?

I'LL TAKE IT
FROM HERE.



I'M GOING
WITH YOU.
UNTIL I KNOW
SHE'S SAFE.




WE DON'T
WORK THAT
WAY.

I DO.

WE
DON'T.



VVVZZZZZZTTTTT



THE BOUNTY
ON HER SAYS
DEAD OR ALIVE.
DEAD IT IS...

SAMNANG!
PLEASE,
DON'T!

I APPRECIATE THE
INITIATIVE IT TOOK FOR
YOU TO CONTACT US ON SUCH
SHORT NOTICE. I ALLOWED YOU
TO COME BECAUSE WE ARE
GOING TO MAKE A GREAT
DEAL OF MONEY
TOGETHER...

...BUT DON'T
TELL ME WHAT TO
DO, *DRAGON*. NOT
EVER.

IRIS!!!!

I MEANT
NO DISRESPECT.
BUT WHEN IRIS DIES,
I WANT IT TO BE BY MY
HAND IN SINGLE COMBAT--
SO EVERYONE WILL KNOW
THAT I'M THE BEST
THERE IS.

PLEASE,
GRANT ME
THIS GIFT,
SAMNANG...

"...CONSIDERING
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO
DO FOR YOU."



"WE HAVE CHERRY
SHE GOES TO THE
HIGHEST BIDDER. THE
OPENING BID STARTS
AT \$50 MILLION."



TO BE
CONTINUED...
ALL NEW EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS #4